

didn't feel properly dressed without a hat and a shoe shine.

It was a time, as Arthur Miller's legendary Willie Loman said in *Death of a Salesman*, when we were all salesmen, getting along with a shoe shine and a smile. For many men, the shine was a weekly ritual.

Back in the day, you could walk into George's and all nine chairs would be occupied with customers—wingtips, next to oxfords, next to loafers—and George would be polishing all nine pair at once. It was like an assembly line, but there was nothing automated about it.

At one point, he had four men working for him and he still worked 14- and 16-hour days, seven days a week.

He didn't take a vacation for 29 years, until 1975, when he went back to Greece for two weeks with his mother, brother and sister. After that, he didn't take another vacation for 25 years.

He's been to Greece twice in the last three years to visit relatives. He says he might take a vacation again someday—but only with family.

Work and family. Those are the things that matter to George Manias: His sister Angie owns a small candy-and-nuts shop in Peoria, and his brother Manny is a private detective who used to be the deputy sheriff in Peoria County.

In 1996, his widowed mother suffered a serious stroke that left her paralyzed. The siblings cared for her at home for the last 4 years of her life.

Customers come to George's for more than just the spit-polish shines. They come to chat and to learn what's happening in town.

Mike McCuskey, a federal judge, has been a loyal customer for years. He calls George's shoe shine parlor pure Americana and vintage Peoria.

You never know who you'll see there. One day, McCuskey said, he looked over at the man in the chair next to him and blurted out, You're Gayle Sayers, aren't you? That was when the Hall of Famer was still playing for the Chicago Bears.

Over the years, George's Shoe Shine and Hattery—its official name—has grown from a small business to a legend. It has been featured in local newspapers, radio and TV; in the *Washington Times* and the *Associated Press*; on the *Today Show*; and on the front page of *USA Today*—twice.

The walls are covered with news clippings and photographs of famous people who have dropped in for a shine: President Gerald Ford, during the 1976 presidential campaign; President Ronald Reagan in 1982; Everett Dirksen, the Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate when LBJ was President; Former House Minority Leader Bob Michel; Congressman RAY LAHOOD; Former Illinois governors Bob Edgar and Richard Ogilvie; Peoria Mayor Jim Ardis and a string of his predecessors; BARACK OBAMA. Even my photograph is there. Democrats and Republicans. In 2004, Congressman LAHOOD brought in then-

CIA director George Tenet, a Greek-American, who was in Peoria to give a speech. The two Georges chatted in Greek. There are photos of movie stars and singers. And judges—lots of judges.

But you don't have to be famous to feel welcome. George makes everyone in Peoria feel special. It doesn't matter if you're a well-known politician or if the \$3 you spend on that shoe shine is the only \$3 you have, George makes you feel special.

Another reason people go to George's is because he listens to everything, and he knows everything that's going on in the local Republican and Democratic parties, and in the Peoria business community.

Says Judge McCuskey: It's like that Merrill Lynch commercial. When George speaks, you want to listen. And sometimes when you speak, George looks up at you with the slightest smile, and you never know if he's smiling because he knows something you don't know—or because you've just given him another piece of a puzzle he didn't have. He's the keeper of the secrets.

On Judge McCuskey's desk in the federal courthouse in Urbana sits a small scale of justice, a symbol that traces its origins to ancient Greece. It's a treasured gift that George Manias brought back from a trip to Greece.

Across Peoria and far beyond, countless other people have been blessed with gifts from George, not the least of which is a perfect shine and the dignity of being treated with respect no matter who you are.

George Manias is a quintessential American in a quintessentially American city, and I am proud to join the city of Peoria in honoring him on his 60 years as a successful entrepreneur.

#### PREVENTING UNDERAGE DRINKING ACT

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, just over 3 years ago, on September 30, 2003, I held a hearing as chairman of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Subcommittee on the problem of underage drinking. Senator DODD, who later joined me in crafting a bill to help combat the problem, joined me at that hearing. We were there to discuss this serious problem affecting the health and well-being of our Nation's young people—a problem that has been ignored for too long—a problem that kills thousands of America's teenagers.

We all know that underage drinking is a significant issue for youth in this country. We have known that for a very long time. We have known that underage drinking often contributes to the 4 leading causes of deaths among 15 to 20-year-olds—that 69 percent of youths who died in alcohol-related traffic fatalities in the year 2000 involved young drinking drivers—that in 1999, nearly 40 percent of people under age 21 who were victims of drownings, burns, and falls tested positive for alcohol.

We have known that alcohol has been reported to be involved in 36 percent of homicides, 12 percent of male suicides, and 8 percent of female suicides involving people under 21. And we have known that underage drinking accounts for 6.5 times more deaths among young people than illicit drug use.

How did we get here? How did our Nation reach this point—a point where today, 12 percent of eighth graders—12 and 13-year-olds—binge drink? These statistics are frightening. Too many American kids are drinking regularly, and they are drinking in quantities that can be of great harm to them.

As a nation, we clearly haven't done enough to address this problem. We haven't done enough to acknowledge how prevalent and widespread teenage drinking is in this country.

We haven't done enough to admit that it is a real problem with very real and very devastating consequences. We haven't done enough to help teach America's children about the dangers of underage drinking. We talk about drugs and the dangers of drug use, as we should, but the reality is that we, as a society, have become complacent about the problem of underage drinking. This has to change. The culture has to change.

In reaction to these problems, I worked with my friend and colleague from Connecticut, Senator DODD, to write a bill that will provide some of the tools our communities need to combat underage drinking.

The Sober Truth on Preventing, STOP, Underage Drinking Act would be an important step toward reducing underage drinking on our college campuses and in our schools and communities. This bill will provide authorization for funding to encourage parental awareness of the problem, such as the ongoing Ad Council campaign on underage drinking. It will also provide authorization for grants on college campuses and in surrounding communities to change the culture of drinking that so permeates our institutions of higher education. It will also provide grants to our communities to specifically target underage drinking reduction, as well as authorize additional research that is so important to helping us to further understand this problem and prevent the negative consequences associated with it.

I want to thank Senator DODD for his hard work on this bill. He has been a great champion for the prevention of underage drinking. He is a tireless fighter for America's children and youth. He cares about kids. He cares about their well-being. I am privileged to have had the opportunity to work with him on many pieces of legislation to help protect children and promote their health and welfare. I know that combating teenage drinking has been and continues to be very important to him, and I thank him for his interest in this area. I also thank Chairman ENZI and Ranking Member KENNEDY for their help in passing this important legislation.

Kids are beginning to drink earlier and earlier—at younger and younger ages—and they are doing so in ways that could negatively affect their bodies, their minds, and their futures. I urge swift passage of this legislation and look forward to seeing the good work that comes from it.

#### RETIREMENT OF GENERAL JAMES L. JONES

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to GEN James Logan Jones, USMC, who is concluding his extraordinary career in the Marine Corps with his retirement as Commander, United States European Command and as the Supreme Allied Commander of NATO.

For 5 decades, Jim Jones and his family have faithfully served our Nation in peace and war. From 1965, when he led a platoon in the jungles of Vietnam, to 1999, when he became the 32nd Commandant of the United States Marine Corps and subsequently led the Corps through 9/11 and the ensuing, turbulent years of the global war on terrorism, to the present day as he ensures that NATO—the world's preeminent security alliance—is ready for the 21st century, Jim Jones is the embodiment of what a modern American military leader should be—warrior, statesman, visionary.

My long association with General Jones began in 1972 when I was privileged to take the oath of office as Secretary of the Navy at the historic Marine Barracks in our Nation's Capital. Years before, in the winter of 1951 to 1952, I served in Korea, as a young Marine Corps ground officer with the 1st Marine Air Wing. That modest service, coupled with many years of reserve duty thereafter, prompted me to select the Marine Barracks when I became the first Secretary in history to be sworn in on those grounds. Ten years later, I learned that one of the Marine captains who commanded a company of marines that marched at the ceremony that day was CPT Jim Jones. Years later, we were reunited when he was specially selected to come to the Senate to serve as a Marine Corps liaison officer. Our first trip, with Senator John Tower, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee in the early 1980s, was to go to Lebanon to inspect the tragic site where the U.S. Marine barracks were blown up by suicidal terrorists.

Jim's service in the Corps is a lasting memory for me, and many other Members, to name a few: Senators HAGEL, INOUE, LEVIN, LUGAR, MCCAIN, ROBERTS, STEVENS, BURNS, and THOMAS, because of his professionalism and dedication to the Senate's constitutional obligation "to raise and support armies," and "to provide and maintain a navy."

As the years passed on, I have observed with great admiration as Jim Jones applied his talents and abilities to the numerous opportunities and

challenges he faced—from Vietnam to the halls of the Pentagon and Senate, to the deserts of the Middle East, to Eastern Europe and Africa. Our Nation has produced such a courageous, skilled and dynamic officer in Jim Jones.

Among his most challenging assignments was his last where he led the most aggressive transformation efforts in NATO's history—including a comprehensive headquarters realignment, developing NATO's global military capabilities, creating the NATO Response Force, bringing new members into NATO's military structure, and embracing the concept and practice of out-of-area missions for NATO. Under his guidance, NATO now has 30,000 troops deployed in locations across the globe and is leading the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Unlike his predecessors, Jim Jones would travel to any geographic location in his area of responsibility to personally brief traveling Members of Congress—using charts galore.

As a steadfast, life-long supporter of NATO for its unparalleled success in achieving peace through steadfast resolve, I was privileged to watch General Jones provide extraordinary leadership of NATO's military forces as NATO expanded its membership and began to embrace of out-of-area missions. I share his view that: "NATO has been, and needs to remain, a great Alliance: great Alliances do great things. It is possible, even probable, that NATO's most important days and most important missions lie ahead in the future." Thanks in no small measure to General Jones' contributions, I am confident that NATO is and will be always ready for those challenges.

For the years they have shared with him the burdens and joys of arduous public service, it is also important that we publicly thank his wife Diane, and their children, James, Jennifer, Kevin, and Greg. They, too, have sacrificed much for their country. How proud they are, and we are, that their son Greg is an active duty captain in the Marine Corps today. In keeping with the finest traditions of the Marine Corps throughout its 229-year history, General Jones and his family are grateful for their opportunity to serve, and our Nation is equally grateful for their contributions.

As GEN Jim Jones prepares to "hang up" his Marine Corps sword, our Armed Forces, the Congress, and our Nation owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his many years of commitment and service to this country.

General, sir, in the immortal words of the Navy-Marine Corps team, may you have fair winds and following seas as you embark on your next endeavor. Semper Fidelis.

#### IRAQ'S TOLL OF SLAIN JOURNALISTS CONTINUES TO RISE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Iraq is a dangerous and chaotic place for our

brave American soldiers there, for our coalition partners, and for Iraqi families who must struggle just to make it safely through each day. It is also a perilous place for the journalists who attempt to cover the situation on the ground. They are at the front of the front lines of this conflict, and the dispatches from Iraq produced by representatives of a free and independent press are a vital conduit of information that helps the American people—and their representatives in government—to make more informed decisions. These are print reporters, television correspondents, photo journalists and the other professionals who help journalists in gathering and transmitting the news.

We learned in recent days of the deaths of two more news professionals. Raad Jaafar Hamadi, a journalist with the daily Al Sabah, was shot dead in his car in the east of Baghdad on November 22. Fadhila Abdelkarim, an administrative staff worker of TV station Nainawa, was shot outside her home in Mosul on November 26.

American media professionals have been among the casualties. They are as well known to us as NBC correspondent David Bloom, and those who we will never know by their bylines or on our TV screens. Director General Koichiro Matsuura of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—UNESCO—this week noted that the number of media professionals killed in Iraq continues to grow unabated, and that "since January more than 35 journalists have paid with their lives for their determination to fulfill their mission."

According to Reporters without Borders—RSF—137 journalists and media assistants have been killed in Iraq since the start of the war in 2003, while 51 have been kidnapped. According to RSF, four of the kidnap victims are still being held hostage.

Some in the administration have chosen over the years to disparage the journalists serving in Iraq—for instance, labeling them "lazy" or unwilling to leave their bureaus or hotels.

The reality is far different. Day after day, journalists in Iraq face, and accept, incredible dangers just to do their jobs. As news professionals on one of the most challenging and important news beats on the planet, they deserve great credit for their courage and their commitment, and they deserve our appreciation.

#### A PLAN FOR IDAHO'S ROADLESS AREAS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, on November 29, 2006, Idaho Governor James Risch presented Idaho's petition for our Roadless Areas to the Roadless Area National Advisory Committee here in Washington, DC. I strongly support this collaborative and comprehensive petition.

The Idaho Roadless process was of a thorough and collaborative nature.